

SACRE Annual Report 2022 - 23

1. Introduction and Overview

David Taylor was re-elected as Chair for Academic Year 2022/23. David Taylor noted that it would probably be his last year as Chair, as he had become busier, and required help if he was to be re-elected as Chairman, with somebody attending the Hub in his place and working on the new syllabus.

Clare Hawkins stated that she would be standing down as Vice Chair due to upcoming maternity leave. Amanda Bedding was proposed as Vice Chair by Val Bolan, seconded by Clare Hawkins. Amanda Bedding was elected as Vice Chair for Academic Year 2022/23. Pamela Voss introduced herself as the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Officer, and leader of the EMTAS (Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service), and noted that EDI related strongly to the work of SACRE.

It was noted that exam results were omitted from the previous annual report. It was stated that exam results were not included as it was no longer possible for Democratic Services to get them. The Chairman expressed surprise that this had become an issue, as it was key information for SACRE. Clare Hawkins noted that the issue was raised at the last meeting, and that it was up to the schools whether they wished to declare their exam results. David Taylor noted that SACRE's inability to get exam results was a difficulty for the committee and proposed contacting NASACRE for further information.

2. Statutory Responsibilities in RE

In West Berkshire we produce our Locally Agreed Syllabus (LAS) in conjunction with the other five SACREs in Berkshire once every five years. The LAS is well-established in most of our schools, and most academies have also adopted it. The LAS is to be published in 2024. It was suggested that the recently published Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Locally Agreed Syllabus could be used. The question was raised whether it would be adopted by the other LAs in Pan Berkshire Hub. It would be possible for West Berkshire to come out of the Pan-Berkshire Hub and adopt the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Locally Agreed Syllabus, if it was felt to be the best thing to do. West Berkshire SACRE continues to work closely with the Pan-Berkshire Hub on the LAC. It was enquired about the budget for the new LAC, and it was confirmed that extra budget had been requested and agreed from West Berkshire Council.

3. Statutory Responsibilities in Collective Worship

SACRE is aware of the need to monitor collective worship and continues to engage with local religion and worldview communities to provide appropriate speakers to help schools hear the lived experience and lead reflections. It was agreed that several members of SACRE would contact different schools across West Berkshire to gain information and a better understanding of the state of collective worship in the area. This will be used to inform the support that SACRE will offer to support collective worship in the future.

4. Links with Other Bodies

As mentioned above West Berkshire SACRE works closely with our sister SACREs in the Pan-Berkshire Hub. David Rees and David Taylor attend regular meetings of the Hub. We include membership of NASACRE in our budget each year. David Rees helps us stay in touch with RE Online and the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust. Links to other organisations

are actively being sought and SACRE members are encouraged to investigate local and national contacts.

5. Local Involvement

As well as our teacher members, our Chairman David Taylor and other members of SACRE are involved in a number of local schools in various ways, for example organising and chairing panel discussions with faith and worldview representatives in secondary schools. These sometimes make the local press.

6. SACRE Arrangements

David Rees continued to serve as our Professional Adviser, and we benefit hugely from his expertise and involvement. Jack Karimi from West Berkshire Council now serves as our Clerk. Both of them keep in contact with the Chair between SACRE meetings in order to share relevant information. Our new LA Adviser is Kate House, a local headteacher. All four membership groups are regularly represented at meetings, and there were no issues with quoracy this year. No formal training for SACRE members was accessed this year. In the financial year beginning April 2023, SACRE was granted £4840, the same figure as the previous year. The autumn 2022 and spring 2023 meetings were online, but the summer 2023 was one face-to-face and was very kindly hosted by Mobasshir Mushtaq at Newbury Mosque. It was agreed that one meeting a year would face-to-face, with the other two remaining online.